

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 01184 211314Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00
MCT-01 IO-13 TRSE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 FBO-02 CU-02
NEAE-00 /104 W

-----211319Z 127269 /53

O R 211240Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 857
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION SINAI
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS EG
SUBJECT: CAIRO SITREP 1200 JANUARY 21

REF: (A) CAIRO 1159 (B) CAIRO 1160

1. SECURITY SITUATION: AS OF 1200 LOCAL JANUARY 21 NEAR NORMAL
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SITUATION FOR A FRIDAY PREVAILS IN CAIRO. PUBLIC TRANSPORT
AND TAXIS OPERATING AT USUAL LEVELS; ARMY STILL ON HAND IN
STRENGTH, PARTICULARLY AT MAJOR INTERSECTIONS OF
ROUTES LEADING TO DOWNTOWN CAIRO. THERE ARE NO PUBLIC OR PRIVATE
REPORTS OF ANY EFFORT TO INCITE RENEWED RIOTING.

2. COOPERATIVE FOOD STORES ALL OPEN, BUT THERE SHORTAGES OF

BREAD AND BUTAGAS. UNCLEAR AT PRESENT WHETHER SPECULATORS AT WORK OR BREAKDOWN OF DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TO BLAME. BAKERIES OPERATING PAST CURFEW AND BUTAGAS BOTTLE SHORTAGES MAY HAVE BEEN PRODUCED BY GENERAL TENDENCY OF PEOPLE TO HOARD. TAXIS TAKING ADVANTAGE IN PAST TWO DAYS OF PRE-CURFEW RUSH TO OPERATE ON INFLATED OFF-METER FARE BASIS.

3. CURFEW CHANGED FROM 1900 TO 0600 TO 2200 TO 0600. PRESS REPORTS IT LIKELY TO BE ELIMINATED SOON IN VIEW RESTORED PUBLIC ORDER. CAIRO AIRPORT DID NOT OFFICIALLY CLOSE DURING DISTURBANCES. EGYPT AIR FLIGHTS RESPECTING CURFEW HOURS FOR OPERATION, BUT FOR OTHER AIRLINES SECURITY AUTHORITIES FACILITATING MOVEMENT OF TRAVELERS TO AND FROM AIRPORT DURING CURFEW. ALL GOVERNMENT UNIVERSITIES WILL REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL MID-FEBRUARY, BUT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PLANS TO REOPEN TOMORROW FOR TWO WEEKS OF EXAMS.

4. GOE ACTIONS: GOE POINTING FINGER AT COMMUNISTS AND OTHER SUBVERSIVES AS RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENCE. MININT, MAIN SOURCE THESE ALLEGATIONS (SEPTTEL), ROUNDED UP "COMMUNIST" STUDENTS, WELL KNOWN MARXIST JOURNALISTS AND MEMBERS OF "COMMUNIST WORKERS PARTY." TOTAL ARRESTED CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA PUT AT SOME 800. NO ATTEMPT MADE YET TO FIND SACRIFICIAL LAMBS WITHIN RANKS OF GOE. DEPPRIMIN FOR ECONOMY KAISOUNI OFFERED RESIGN DURING RIOTING (WE BELIEVE THIS WAS SINCERE GESTURE ON HIS PART), BUT PRIMIN SALIM REFUSED OFFER. THERE SPECULATION THAT MININT FAHMY MAY BE DISMISSED FOR HANDLING SECURITY ASPECTS POORLY. ALTHOUGH SADAT BACK IN CAIRO, THERE IS STILL NO WORD FROM HIM.

5. PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY. INTERESTING PHENOMENON IS INSERTION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY INTO THICK OF ECONOMIC DECISION MAKING PROCESS. PRESS REPORTS JANUARY 21 THAT BUDGET AND PLANNING COMMITTEE HAS "CANCELLED" PRICE INCREASES, DECISION WHICH IT APPARENTLY NOT CONSTITUTIONALLY ENTITLED TO TAKE. GOE MAY HAVE STRUCK ON TACTIC OF POSITIONING PA, WHICH IT CONTROLS THROUGH ELECTED MAJORITY, AS ULTIMATE SOURCE OF GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY TO DEFLECT WIDESPREAD CRITICISM FROM ITSELF THAT ISSUE HANDLED UNDEMOCRATICALLY.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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